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**239.** With a view to keep the beggars active and train them up to become useful and self-reliant citizens, the beggars in the Relief Centre are given training in handicrafts, such as mat-weaving, envelope-making, spinning by charakas and taklies. Most of the boys have learnt the art of mat-weaving very well and they were discharged and sent back to Society to lead a useful life. In order to employ the able-bodied inmates of this Colony, an extent of 250 acres was used for cultivation in agriculture and gardening. A variety of vegetables were grown as also ragi, horsegram and jawar crops.

**240.** A primary school and the adult literacy section continued to work in the Colony.

**241.** The Act for the prohibition of beggary in the Mysore State was extended to the Civil Station of Bangalore from 1st September 1950.

## (xii) Village Panchayets and Rural Drive.

**242.** The total number of village panchayets in the State was 12,571 (12,241). including the panchayets constituted for villages transferred to Mysore State. Eleven thousand three hundred and fifty-eight (11,358) elected their own chairmen. The number of meetings held by the village panchayets was 31,194 (40,422).

**243.** Including arrears, the total demand of the village panchayet taxes amounted to Rs. 34,83,010 (Rs. 37,63,583), of which Rs. 13,10,807 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 21,72,203 (Rs. 19,48,770) at the end of the year.

**244.** The cash balance at the credit of the panchayets was Rs. 55,88,444, the income of the village panchayets from various sources amounted to Rs. 13,74,993 (Rs. 20,74,599) making a total of Rs. 69,63,437, of which a sum of Rs. 15,49,883 (Rs. 24,65,221) was spent, leaving a balance of Rs. 54,13,552 at the credit of the village panchayets by the end of the year.

Grant.

**245.** Out of a sum of Rs. 23 lakhs sanctioned for Rural Development Works, a sum of Rs. 17,07,239 was spent on rural improvements, rural water supply and rural communications.

**246.** A length of 288 miles and 5 furlongs of inter-village communication roads was formed during the year. A sum of Rs. 21,882 was spent on the maintenance of the roads. A distance of 1,457 miles of roads has yet to be formed. Inter village communication roads.

**247.** The number of wells completed and pending at the end of the year was 588 and 3,256, respectively. The number of villages that are in need of wells single or more was 4,065. Rural water supply.

**248.** The system of weekly labour was in vogue in 3,389 (3,053) villages. The value of work done amounted to Rs. 2,30,313, of which a sum of Rs. 49,888 was adjusted towards the village panchayet taxes. Miscellaneous.

**249.** Three hundred and fifty-two (484) drainage works were completed, 306 (185) village extensions were formed and 2,268 (1,325) separate plots were allotted for dumping manure. Unsightly pits were removed to distant places in 1,674 (841) villages. Topes were formed in 1,951 (5,102) villages. A special tree planting drive was undertaken during the year. Fifteen lakhs seventy-three thousand three hundred and thirty-six seedlings were planted and a sum of Rs. 10,000 was spent for the purpose. Seven thousand six hundred and fifteen adult literacy classes were opened.

**250.** The rural welfare centres continued to work. Those centres covered an area of 490 square miles and were intended to serve a total population of 1,20,489. The amount spent on public works in these centres was Rs. 1,61,354 and a sum of Rs. 36,989 was spent for providing amenities to the members of Depressed Classes in the rural welfare centres. Rural welfare centres.

**251.** The number of taluk development committees held was 647. Twelve hobli conferences were held. The accounts of 1,262 village panchayets were audited. Committees.

**252.** Propaganda was continued to be carried on through the vans in various matters of rural development by means of lectures and exhibition of education films. Instructions were issued to undertake intensive work in the headquarters of Revenue Circles so that each village could build up a community centre of its own. Special attention was being bestowed for the improvement of the 24 villages

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selected for Agricultural Labour Enquiry by the Government of India. A sum of Rs. 12,000 was allotted for the purpose.

**253.** As a measure of assisting grow more food scheme, instructions were issued to spend a portion of grants allotted for Raral Improvements for digging pits for the preparation of compost manure. Seven thousand one hundred and forty-eight pits were dug at a cost of Rs. 14,418.

**254.** To suggest measures to avoid overlapping of Rural Development Work that is devolving on the Village Panchayets, Rural Development Committees and the District Boards, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Sri V. Venkatappa. The suggestion of the Committee to have a common Act for the Local Boards was engaging the attention of Government.

## Amelioration of the condition of the Depressed Classes.

**255.** A sum of Rs. 19 lakhs was sanctioned for the scheme of amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. A sum of Rs. 13,07,367 was spent for meeting the cost of acquisition of lands for the formation of depressed class colonies and extensions and for the payment of subven. tions to deserving people for the construction of houses. During the year, 176 cases of acquisition of lands were sanctioned and 4,069 houses were constructed in the several parts of the State with the help of Government subventions.

**256.** Encouragement was accorded to the Kannada weekly journal "Panchajanya" which was dedicated to the social and educational advancement of the Harijans by purchasing 2,000 copies thereof for being distributed among the village panchayets, etc.